

## "PREPAREDNESS IS FOR WAR!"

### Here's Message from Lips of Money King Not Intended for Toilers of America!

By J. L. ENGDAHL.

**"PREPAREDNESS IS FOR WAR!"**  
Do you get that right? Read it again! Think it over! Tell your fellow man that all this fuss and fume about a bigger army and the biggest navy, that this "PREPAREDNESS IS FOR WAR!"

DON'T take the word of a Socialist for it. Don't take the word even of a Socialist sympathizer, nor of a non-Socialist peace advocate.

But take the word of James B. Forgan, the J. Pierpont Morgan of Chicago, the western head of the Money Trust. And he ought to know!

**"PREPAREDNESS IS FOR WAR!"**

That is a message from the lips of a Money King not intended for the ears of the toilers of America!

I HAVE before me the Friday, May 19th issue of "The Chicago Commerce", a weekly published by the Chicago Association of Commerce. Most of this issue is devoted to boosting the Chicago Jingo Parade, Saturday, June 3, when the New York jingoes are to be outdone.

The jingo parade was spawned in the cunning brains of the big business interests banded together in the Chicago Association of Commerce. To get the thing started, James B. Forgan, financier, who helped float the Anglo-French loan in this country, stepped into the limelight for just a few moments. Then he withdrew.

So, in the copy of "The Chicago Commerce", now before me, is a line reading as follows:

"H. B. Riley, representing J. B. Forgan, president, Commercial Club".

And on page eight it is Riley who is

quoted, but the words are the words of James B. Forgan.

Mr. C. S. Stanton, representing the Chicago Examiner, Hearst's morning paper, has just finished speaking. Remember, the Hearst papers never really say what they mean. The Hearst papers lie when they want to win the support of their readers for any proposition. Therefore, Mr. Stanton lied when he urged a "preparedness parade in the interest of peace".

It was just a secret meeting of the big business interests. And these capitalists knew that the jingo sheets wouldn't publish anything to hurt the parade. So, Mr. Riley, representing Mr. Forgan, the money king, spoke right out:

"ONE phrase in the resolution offered seems to me would be better omitted. The resolution as offered is preparedness for peace. IT SIMPLY IS NOT SO. PREPAREDNESS IS FOR WAR. It may be defense against war. But it is not a peace preparedness at all. It is preparing the people to resist aggression, or in a proper cause, TO BE THE AGGRESSOR. That brings in an argument which we ought to be willing to avoid. WE KNOW WHAT PREPARATION MEANS. IT IS MILITARY AND NAVAL PREPARATION FOR THE USES FOR WHICH MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES ARE PUT, and let us not get into a discussion as to whether it is a preparation in the aid of peace or whether we are in favor of peace or whether we are in favor of war. We may differ on that subject, and let us not take a phrase in starting a movement of this kind which is liable to distract our attention from the one thing we are after. THE THING WE ARE AFTER IS TO BE PREPARED, prepared to defend ourselves, prepared if occasion requires, TO BE THE AGGRESSOR".

\* After that harangue, straight from the

spokesman of the plutocracy, Mr. Stanton, Hearst's man, the personification of servility when he hears the voice from on high, withdrew the words "in the interest of peace."

THEREFORE, all you conscripts from the ranks of toil, all you who march in the jingo parades of Saturday, June 3, or thereafter, in Chicago or elsewhere, let it be known that you are marching towards war. For the highest voice in the land, the voice of the almighty dollar, has spoken, and it has declared:

**"PREPAREDNESS IS FOR WAR!"**

NOT ONE subsidized newspaper in Chicago has admitted that preparedness is for war. Like Roosevelt, and like the double-dealing Hearst, they shout with one acclaim that "preparedness is for peace".

So the thousands will march in ignorance, march toward war and militarism instead of away from it, march into the yawning pits of hell being prepared by the militarists of this country, the pits of hell that have already swallowed up millions of dead on the battlefields of Europe.

LET THE thousands of stockyards slaves remember—as they trudge along, their shoulders bent with the burden of labor—remember that you are marching for more battleships in order that J. Ogden Armour may collect millions in gold for the rotten meat he has sold to all the warring nations.

Let the slaves of the steel mills remember they are marching for more war orders and bigger war profits for "Charlie" Schwab and the rest of the munitions crowd.

HAND in glove with the Chicago Association of Commerce is the Illinois Manufacturers' Association in promoting this parade marching towards war. Samuel M. Hastings, president of the Illinois Man-

ufacturers' Association, in the campaign of conscription that was necessary to make the parade possible, wrote to all exploiters as follows:

"Following up its action in sending a delegation to Washington two weeks ago to advocate preparedness the Illinois Manufacturers' Association has joined with other organizations in Chicago to make the great parade June 3 a big success. The officers, clerical staff and men of every plant in Chicago should be in line.

"In order to facilitate the organization of the industrial division of the parade, which has been placed in the hands of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, you are requested to promptly fill out the enclosed card, giving the details as to the number of men you will furnish and the name of the particular officer of the company who will be in line".

Thus the exploiter holds over every one of his slaves the greatest threat of all—the loss of his job. Bernard E. Sunny, head of the Chicago Phone Trust, immediately promised to have 5,000 "hello" girls in line. He didn't ask even a single girl if she wanted to march. The word of the boss is law.

SOME employers were a little gentle in making their demands. I have in my hand a letter sent by the parade committee of the Addressograph Company to all of the employees of this corporation. At the bottom of the letter, the employee is asked to write his name and the size of hat he wears, because the boss has promised to provide not only a soft hat and a cane for all of his marching slaves, but also "a badge of some kind".

Wouldn't it be a good thing if every man and woman in the parade, every slave of a master, carried a huge placard on his back bearing the name of the owner of his job, the amount of wages he receives and the number of hours he toils. That would be a badge to make the toiling masses in Chicago think. I submit this as a suggestion to the

committee in charge of the procession.

SINCE the Chicago Federation of Labor, as reported in last week's issue of The American Socialist, passed resolutions denouncing the preparedness for war parade and the "Bloody Five" militarist bills passed by the New York legislature, it has become the object of attack by the capitalist press.

Let all the workers remember that a prominent New York lawyer has given it as his opinion that the specific phases of the New York military laws relating to the draft provide that in case of strike the men in a striking union could be drafted into the militia, and marched back to work as soldiers. How do you like that? That is just what is done in the militarist countries of Europe.

THOSE WHO studied the situation in New York, Saturday, May 23, declared the Jingo Parade in that city was a failure. A holiday crowd turned out, marched to be sure, but took the whole affair as a joke, an opportunity to have a good time. For the same reason the Jingo Parade in Chicago and everywhere else will be a joke.

But the master class will remain on the job. The plutes will be busy at the democratic, republican and progressive party conventions this month. They will have men nominated who think as they want them to think. The workers have an opportunity to defeat all the well laid plans of the exploiters. They can pile up a big vote for the national Socialist candidates, Benson and Kirkpatrick, in November. They can send a big delegation of Socialists to congress and to every state legislature.

ONE Socialist elected to congress in November will be worth millions of protests sent to Washington next summer. Do your protesting before the election. Then you will not be forced to protest after the votes have been counted.

## What Are You Going To Do To Help Send Debs To Congress?

TAKE TIME to consider this all-important question:

"What are you going to do to help send Debs to congress?"

Every Socialist and every Socialist sympathizer in the land ought to do something. A little effort put forth by all will make enough Socialists out of the voters in the Fifth Indiana Congressional District to make Debs' election a certainty.

The American Socialist wants to do all in its power to bring victory to the Socialist standards down in Indiana. But it cannot do much without your support.

Here is the proposition suggested to the comrades on the Fifth Indiana Congressional Socialist Campaign Committee:

### PLAN OF ACTION.

FIRST.—That The American Socialist make a special effort to get contributions to put the voters of the Fifth Indiana Congressional District on its subscription list.

SECOND.—That for every 25 cents received, The American Socialist will put a voter in the Fifth Indiana District on its subscription list, the names to be supplied by the campaign committee.

THIRD.—That five cents out of every 25 cents received will be turned into the Fifth Indiana Campaign Fund. This is a direct contribution to the campaign of 20 per cent of all contributions received, since 25 cents is the regular price of a six months' subscription.

FOURTH.—That a special Indiana edition of The American Socialist be issued to contain matter that will help in the campaign to elect Comrade Debs.

### MEETS WITH FAVOR.

This is the plan of campaign. It has been endorsed by the Socialist Campaign Committee, as you will see by the reproduction of a telegram on this page, the original of which was received as this issue was going to press.

Glad to hear that The American Socialist is ready to co-operate in the Fifth Indiana

### Message To You In Big Fight To Send Debs To Congress

<b>WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM</b>	
RECEIVED AT 167 W. JACKSON BLVD., PHONE WABASH 4321 LOCAL 19	133 CH X 3
TERRE HAUTE IND 233 P.M. MAY 27, 1916.	
J L ENGDAHL	
EDITOR AMERICAN SOCIALIST	
133. 803 W MADISON ST CHGO ILLS.	
PROPOSITION ACCEPTED BY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.	
NOBLE C. WILSON	
247 PM	

District to assist in the election of Comrade Debs", is the word that comes from William H. Henry, Socialist state secretary of Indiana.

"Good results will come from activity along this line", writes Theodore Debs, brother of "Gene", who is putting his shoulder to the wheel in the fight for victory.

### IT'S UP TO YOU!

Now it is up to you. COMRADES OF THE NATION, while continuing in the work in your districts, to put a little ex-

tra effort into the Fifth Indiana District.

Make this little extra effort now in the form of a contribution to the "Send Debs to Congress Fund". Use the blank on this page. Remember that a dime now in organizing the campaign will be worth dollars later.

Read the article published on this page telling what the Fifth Indiana Socialist Campaign Committee is striving to do NOW! Do what you can to help them!

### Must Reach 34,000 Miners And Farmers To Elect Debs (SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—The nomination of Eugene V. Debs for congress by the Socialists of the Fifth Indiana District has had the effect of a bomb thrown into the camps of the old political parties, for they all realize Debs' strength.

This is the situation as the campaign starts. Debs' opponents are Ralph Moss, democrat, now a representative in congress, a standpatter, and Everett Sanders, republican, a young and inexperienced corporation lawyer-traction variety.

In comparison with these two exponents of the old corrupt, capitalistic parties, Debs towers into the sky with a message clear voiced and fearless. Here is the way the Socialist campaign committee sizes up the situation at the present time:

### NEED 20,000 VOTES.

"If we receive the proper co-operation we can carry the election, but to do so we must have 20,000 votes.

"The organization work here must be a model of perfection. We have

### Reach 24,000 Farmers.

"We have the names and addresses of 24,000 farmers in this district and we have planned to send seven cents for literature on each name. There are also 10,000 miners here, all members of the United Mine Workers of America. We want to spend five cents for literature on each one of these miners. Organization work has been started among both these groups of workers. There is much work yet to be done. We must have six expert Socialist farmer organizers, one for each of the six counties of the district, until this work is done. We must have two organizers for the miners.

"We have many foreign language organizations in the district. There are 4,000 Italians, with our organization well established among them. For these we must have literature and an organizer for at least one month. There are 3,000 Germans who must be completely organized. There are also Hungarians, Finnish, Lithuanians, Slavs, Serbians and French peoples here, all as yet unorganized. Foreign speaking peoples can vote on their first papers in this state. In addition to being organized they must also be instructed to take out their naturalization papers.

### Quakers Oppose War.

"We have two counties that are

Quaker settlements. These Quakers are opposed to war, militarism and "preparedness", and we must reach them with our message.

"We have started on the school house organization work in the rural districts. We have planned to hold 700 or 800 school house meetings during the campaign. It will require considerable funds to finance this work. It is a big undertaking, requiring many office workers, organizers and speakers.

"Beginning Sept. 1, we shall bring the big speakers into the district; among them Walter Thomas Mills, author of "The Struggle for Existence", Allan L. Benson, Socialist candidate for president; George R. Kirkpatrick, Socialist candidate for vice-president; Daniel W. Hoan, Socialist mayor of Milwaukee; George D. Brewer, former member of the Kansas legislature, and many others.

"We are appealing to the 7,000 local branches and organizations of the Socialist Party for financial aid to carry on this work. The red card movement is growing here. If the comrades from over the nation will respond, we will surely send our Comrade Debs to congress. His election will mean new life to the movement nationally and internationally. All of the Socialist papers are aiding us and many other labor papers are coming into the fight. We wish to thank the comrades from every part of the country for joining with us, for the interest shown, for the contributions made and the help rendered thru the press."

### Our Responsibility.

By JOHN M. WORK.

THE PRESENT industrial and political situation presents a magnificent opportunity for the propagation of Socialism. Previous to the last presidential campaign our difficulty was to get a hearing. But the time has arrived when there is very little difficulty in that respect.

Our program is thoroughly practical, our principles are thoroughly logical, and the time is ripe for Socialist propaganda. All that is necessary is to present our cause to the American people in a clear, logical, fearless, aggressive, dignified and uncompromising manner, without rant, bombast, mountebankery or hysterics.

NOW IS the time for every Socialist to keep his head on his shoulders, to make every new step a true step, and to make every blow count.

In this critical time—for this is a critical time—one of the most critical junctures in the whole history of this world—I say, in this critical time, it depends upon the Socialists to sound the one clear note.

Everybody else is fuddled, confused and bewildered. It depends upon the Socialists to furnish the calmness, the precision, the positiveness, the aggressiveness, the constructiveness, the cool-headedness, and the self-possession.

To all the great, struggling, mystified masses—puzzled, perplexed, confused, yet groping for the light, and, best of all, surcharged with a divine discontent—we will have to "point out the way, as does the evening star to those who tread their path in darkness."

IF WE are not prepared to do these things, civilization will temporarily lapse for lack of guidance, and the new order will be delayed.

If we ARE prepared to do these things, the world will, without a relapse, pass quickly and safely on to its next and higher stage.

Our responsibility is therefore very vast—well nigh overwhelming.

It should weigh upon our minds and be reflected in our words and in our acts.

Reports from Springfield, Ill., indicate that George R. Kirkpatrick, Socialist candidate for vice-president, had a walkway in his debate on militarism with Burr McIntosh, playwright, war correspondent, personal friend of ex-President Taft and Gen. Leonard Wood. The military crowd turned out en masse to see Kirkpatrick smothered by this matinee hero of the munitions barons. But, according to reports of the battle, McIntosh was verbally slaughtered and practically acknowledged it. Kirkpatrick is no doubt now ready for another forensic battle with another representative of the jingoes.

### ST. LOUIS, MO., SOCIALISTS FIGHTING THE WAR MANIA.

St. Louis, Mo., will have a big peace and anti-militarist demonstration at the city hall plaza, Saturday, June 3rd, when the jingoes are parading their legs off in an effort to show that the city is war mad. The St. Louis demonstration was decided on at a conference of Socialists, trade unionists and other friends of peace and anti-militarism. This meeting was called by the Socialist Party which recently addressed a letter to Mayor Kiel and the rest of the militarists, informing them that if they insisted on holding their so-called "preparedness" parade the Socialist Party would immediately organize the friends of peace and anti-militarists of St. Louis into a counter demonstration. The "preparedness" forces claimed they would hold their parade and so the peace forces are going right ahead to administer an antidote for the war mania.

### IDENTITY OF INTERESTS.

The interests of capital and capitalism are identical.

The interests of Socialism and Labor are identical.

The interests of capital and labor can never be identical until capital is owned and controlled by labor.—J. ARTHUR REID.

The peace propaganda of the British Independent Labor party is hampering the English authorities considerably. The war sentiment among the English people is weakening. The introduction of compulsory conscription and the hard measures taken by the government against English labor leaders have done much to dampen the war enthusiasm of large masses. The British government seems determined to make itself still more unpopular by continuing on this course.

## SEND DEBS TO CONGRESS!

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST,  
803 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO.

Here is \$..... which is my contribution to help send Eugene V. Debs to congress from the Fifth Indiana Congressional District. I understand that for every 25 cents sent in, the Fifth Indiana Socialist Campaign Committee will be allowed to put one voter on the subscription list of The American Socialist for six months and that five cents will be contributed to the Fifth Indiana Socialist Campaign Fund.

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
CITY ..... STATE .....



## The American Socialist

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGBAHL, Editor  
WALTER KAMPEL, Business Mgr.  
RYAN WALKER, Cartoonist

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle Rates One Year to one Address: 4 copies, \$1.30; 8 copies, \$2.50; 12 copies, \$3.75; 16 copies, \$5.00; 20 copies, \$6.25; 24 copies, \$7.50; 28 copies, \$8.75; 32 copies, \$10.00; 36 copies, \$11.25; 40 copies, \$12.50; 44 copies, \$13.75; 48 copies, \$15.00; 52 copies, \$16.25; 56 copies, \$17.50; 60 copies, \$18.75; 64 copies, \$20.00; 68 copies, \$21.25; 72 copies, \$22.50; 76 copies, \$23.75; 80 copies, \$25.00; 84 copies, \$26.25; 88 copies, \$27.50; 92 copies, \$28.75; 96 copies, \$30.00; 100 copies, \$31.25; 104 copies, \$32.50; 108 copies, \$33.75; 112 copies, \$35.00; 116 copies, \$36.25; 120 copies, \$37.50; 124 copies, \$38.75; 128 copies, \$40.00; 132 copies, \$41.25; 136 copies, \$42.50; 140 copies, \$43.75; 144 copies, \$45.00; 148 copies, \$46.25; 152 copies, \$47.50; 156 copies, \$48.75; 160 copies, \$50.00; 164 copies, \$51.25; 168 copies, \$52.50; 172 copies, \$53.75; 176 copies, \$55.00; 180 copies, \$56.25; 184 copies, \$57.50; 188 copies, \$58.75; 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3224 copies, \$1007.50; 3228 copies, \$1008.75; 3232 copies, \$1010.00; 3236 copies, \$1011.25; 3240 copies, \$1012.50; 3244 copies, \$1013.75; 3248 copies, \$1015.00; 3252 copies, \$1016.25; 3256 copies, \$1017.50; 3260 copies, \$1018.75; 3264 copies, \$



## EXECUTIVE DEPT.

**WALTER LANFERNIEK**, Secretary.  
National Executive Committee:  
**JAMES H. MAURER**, 1355 N. 11th St.,  
Reading, Pa.  
**ADOLPH GERMER**, Mount Olive, Ill.  
**GEORGE H. GOEBEL**, 14 Bridge St., New-  
ark, N. J.  
**EMIL SIEDEL**, 1154 Twentieth St., Mil-  
waukee, Wis.  
**ARTHUR LE SUEUR**, Fort Scott, Kans.  
Address all communications to The So-  
cialist Party, 803 West Madison St., Chi-  
cago. Address all mail to departments  
separable to the Socialist Party.

Matter for publication in the official  
columns of The American Socialist must  
be on file in the National Office by the  
Monday preceding the date of issue.

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

**Proposed National Referendum.**  
By Local Exec. Committee.  
That we demand of the United States Gov-  
ernment the right to bear arms to be fur-  
nished by the government as a means of pro-  
tection to our homes and families, or in case  
of invasion, our country and our liberty are  
safer in the hands of the people than in the  
hands of professional soldiers. "The rights  
of the constitution plainly states, 'The right  
of the people to keep and bear arms shall never  
be infringed upon'."  
20 members in good standing. Published  
for second, June 3, 1916.

**By Local Exec. Committee.**  
No individual, local, or subdivision of  
the Party shall circulate the party membership  
for the purpose of advancing any person  
for nomination in preference to other can-  
didates provided any member may inquire  
into the qualifications of any person proposed  
for nomination.  
23 members in good standing. Published  
for second, June 3, 1916.

### Comment on Pending Nat. Com. Motion.

"That the editions of The American So-  
cialist containing the twice-monthly supple-  
ment be sent free to all local secretaries, the  
state executive committees, the state so-  
cretaries, the national committees, national  
executive committees and editors of So-  
cialist publications. The American Socialist  
to be credited with 25 cents per name per  
year."  
SADLER: I vote NO on the motion, as my  
experience within the Party is, that those  
holding official positions are better able to  
subscribe to our official publications than the  
average member of the Rank and File. Those  
accepting official positions owe it to themselves  
and the comrades who have placed so much  
confidence in them, to keep posted on Party  
affairs, and they have the time and money  
to come thru with their 25c as any other  
member. The drain on the finances would be  
quite an item to maintain this proposed free  
list, and I am against all special privileges.  
GOEBEL: "I desire to be recorded as de-  
clining to the either way, because of being  
satisfied neither with the measure, nor the  
proposed remedy."

The following have accepted nomination  
as members of the Unity Conference Com-  
mittee:  
Beadley, Boudin, Clark, Demarest, Del-  
tune, Enemark, Garver, Gobell, Hurst, Kat-  
terfeld, Latimer, Le Sueur, (Chas.), Onal,  
Sadler, Thompson, Williams.  
Declinations:  
Debs, Duncan, Fenimore, Greens (N. H.),  
Hilquit, Les, Maurer, (Edwin), Kover, Jr.,  
Ruttenberg, Sinclair, (Edwin), Strebel,  
Soomon.  
Not heard from:  
Knudsen, Rudenberger, Berger, Ervin, Le  
Sueur, Hayes, Sullivan, Cohen.  
Vote closes June 16th.

### EXECUTIVE COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

Chicago, Ill., May 19, 1916.  
To the Executive Committee:  
Dear Comrades: I submit to you herewith  
the following:  
National Executive Committee Motion "L".  
By Le Sueur.  
"I move the election of A. M. Simons, with  
L. Boudin as substitute, alternates, to be  
representative in place of Morris Hilquit  
in International Conference at International  
Bureau Sessions."  
Vote closes May 31st. Ballot inclosed.  
Comment on Motion "J" by Gobell.  
LESUEUR—Victor L. Berger stands for

nationalism against internationalism and in  
my humble opinion is the least qualified in  
principle of any prominent socialist to re-  
present the party in this conference.  
Fraternally submitted,  
Walter Lanferniek, Executive Secretary.

Chicago, Ill., May 17, 1916.  
To the Executive Committee:  
Dear Comrades: I submit to you herewith  
the following:  
National Executive Committee Motion "K".  
By Gobell.  
"That fifty dollars be appropriated to the  
state of Oregon to assist in getting the  
petitions, etc., necessary to get the Presi-  
dential ticket on the ballot, and to make  
monthly installments of twenty-five dollars  
each."  
Comment.  
The members have already had a letter from  
the National Secretary explaining the situa-  
tion. I have had the opportunity to talk to  
the State Secretary and others, and feel we  
can well afford to give Oregon this sum, and  
should do it quickly to get the work under  
way. Oregon seems in shape to quickly build  
up, and handicapped greatly by lack of any  
resources. The State Secretary seems to be  
making considerable financial sacrifice, which  
is an added reason for giving them a lift  
quickly.  
Vote closes May 29th, 1916. Ballot inclosed.  
Fraternally submitted,  
Walter Lanferniek, Executive Secretary.

Chicago, Ill., May 26, 1916.  
To the Executive Committee:  
Dear Comrades: I report as follows:  
On National Executive Committee Motion  
"L".  
By Le Sueur.  
"That Victor L. Berger serve as Hilquit's  
alternate to International Bureau sessions."  
Vote: Yes—Gobell, Maurer.  
Vote: No—Le Sueur.  
Vote: Yes—Sadler.  
Motion carried.  
Fraternally submitted,  
Walter Lanferniek, Executive Secretary.

**ELECTION OF PARTY OFFICIALS.**  
NEW YORK: By a recent election, the  
following were elected to the National Com-  
mittee: Algonquin, N. Y., 1186 Ma-  
dison Avenue, New York City: L. B. Boudin,  
On May 19th, 1916, City (re-elected).  
U. Solomon, 41 Union Square, New York  
City; Herbert M. Merrill, 228 Liberty Street,  
Schenectady.

**CORRECTION:** Idaho's report on the ballot  
for party officials just closed, reached this  
office just after the tabulation report had  
been sent to the printer. The figures were  
added in the proofs. The vote on Executive  
Committee members was printed correctly,  
but the figures on the Executive Secretary  
should read: "Germer, 93; Thompson, 98."

### ON THE FIRING LINE.

George F. Parsons, State Organizer  
for the Socialist Party of West Vir-  
ginia, was assaulted in broad day-  
light at Colfax railroad station near  
Fairmont, W. Va., by two corporation  
thugs, the hired assassins of the  
coal barons, while on his way to post  
notice of a meeting at Colfax, W.  
Va.  
They broke his nose, blacked both  
eyes, and generally smashed him up.  
Parsons gamely returned to the fray,  
however, and three days later spoke  
to a fine crowd at Colfax and two  
localities there are now being organized.  
Even the capitalist press is de-  
nouncing this cowardly affair.—ED-  
WIN FIRTH, State Secretary.

A Milan, Italy, message states that  
the German government placed restrictions on  
May Day celebrations. State workers  
who wanted to take a holiday that day  
were obliged to toil thru the Sunday.  
Processions and public meetings were  
forbidden on May Day. In Austria  
also processions were interdicted, and  
the celebration took the form of  
simple reunions in the evening.

Elbert Hubbard said: "What the  
world really needs is more kindness."  
I would change this. What the world  
really needs is more Socialism.—  
J. ARTHUR REID.

## Berger's Position on "Preparedness" and "Militarism"

**NOTE.**—In view of the refer-  
endum of Local Marion County,  
Indiana, for the recall of Victor  
L. Berger as member of the na-  
tional executive committee, sev-  
eral localities have asked that a  
statement of Comrade Berger's  
position on "militarism" and  
"preparedness" be published in  
The American Socialist. Comrade  
Berger, in reply to this request,  
asks that the statement which  
appeared in The American So-  
cialist at the time he was a can-  
didate for the national executive  
committee, be reprinted. "I have  
not changed my position since I  
was elected," he says. This state-  
ment was as follows:

By VICTOR L. BERGER.

I AM opposed to standing armies  
of any kind. A standing army is al-  
ways the tool of the ruling class.  
America at the present time not only  
has a standing army, but the worst  
kind of a standing army, one of hired  
mercenaries. Our national defense  
force is mainly recruited from the  
"submerged tenth" and is officered by  
trained aristocrats.

Our standing army is a standing  
menace to our democracy at home,  
and is of questionable effectiveness  
against any attack from without.

Any nation, class or individual that  
is defenseless, however well soon be  
enslaved or cease to exist. All history  
bears witness to this fact. There is no  
known exception.

A nation or a class that wants to  
become free, or that wants to stay  
free, must have great power of  
resistance. It must be prepared to  
fight for its freedom at any time.  
Doubtful and non-resistance will  
soon reduce any people or any class  
to the level of the Chinese and Hin-  
dus. Moreover, any man who is un-  
willing, or not ready, to fight for his  
wife or his daughters, does not de-  
serve to be a father or a husband.  
Any man who is unwilling to fight for  
his class or nation, does not deserve  
to belong to a class or a nation.

I AM, therefore, in favor of a "pre-  
paredness" that shall protect and  
unite the bulk of our nation, that is,  
the working people.

For that purpose we must train the  
bodies and minds of all our young  
folks—not only those of the few  
select who have a chance to attend  
academies and universities. We want  
all of our people to be able to defend  
themselves and the country.

Our defense must be democratic  
and industrial. We want a prepared-  
ness that will develop the faculties  
of the workers, add to their power of  
resistance and aid them in their  
struggle for existence.

We want to abolish hunger, want  
and misery—as a part of this pre-  
paredness. We want comfortable  
homes and protection in old age and  
sickness—as a part of this prepared-  
ness. We want healthy and harmoni-  
ously educated men and women—able  
fathers and mothers—as a part of  
this preparedness.

Thus preparedness must become a  
part of our early education by practicing  
calisthenics in our common  
schools and encouraging outdoor  
sports from childhood on, in order to  
produce healthy men and women. But  
this cannot be all.

**WE PROPOSE** that the public  
school system be made a part of "pre-  
paredness" in the following manner:  
Every citizen should devote one  
year—between 19 and 20 to the ser-  
vice of his nation. Every citizen—  
male or female may stay at home  
during the time, but receive for the  
service such pay as will be fixed by  
congressional legislation. Because  
this education must be in charge of  
the nation and the nation must pay  
for it.

We propose to make the public  
school system the center of our coun-  
try's defense. For that purpose a  
workshop should be added to every  
school district. And every young man  
and young woman should be educated  
in handling modern tools of wood and  
iron. They should learn how to  
operate machinery and understand  
the make-up of an automobile, an  
aeroplane or a machine gun. One year  
of service would be sufficient to teach  
them all of that and a good deal  
more.

This education should consider the  
needs and advantages of the respec-  
tive districts. But everybody should  
learn how to plant a tree, construct  
a road or build a bridge. And every-  
body should also practice at the tar-  
get during that time. Girls should  
also learn how to give aid and com-  
fort to the sick and wounded.

**NO ABLE** bodied man or woman  
should be exempt from this national  
duty on account of money, rank or  
class privilege. The details of that  
education could be easily worked out  
as the experience would require.

Such a year of national service will  
be a welcome interruption of the task  
of the factory worker, or the clerk in  
city offices and stores—it will teach  
him many new things and make a  
more useful citizen of him. It will be  
a most excellent "toy" to the edu-  
cation of a young farmer. It will  
have an immensely democratizing in-  
fluence upon the college boy, besides  
giving him advantages that he could  
not get from books.

Moreover, such preparedness will  
absolutely guard the national in-  
dependence until such time as we shall  
have complete disarmament. It will  
be a complete disarmament of the  
world's peace by international agree-  
ment, but it will be useless for ag-  
gression. It will protect the working  
class against further subjugation and

enslavement at home until all class  
distinctions are abolished.

THIS kind of preparedness will not  
only effectively protect the American  
people against attacks from without,  
but also against the foes of democ-  
racy from within. It will forever  
abolish the misuses of public military  
forces, as well as armed private  
thugs.

And last but not least this will be  
a "preparedness" by the entire nation,  
militant and prepared, not by a cap-  
italist class or by insidious clerical  
forces arming quietly all kinds of  
"knights".  
In short, I refuse to be carried  
away by any hysteria caused by this  
world war. We Socialists are more op-  
posed to militarism than ever. But  
the Socialist Party is not for "peace  
at any price." War may be hell, but  
there are some things in this world  
worse than "hell." Real Socialists are  
willing to fight them.

### Socialist Methods

By GEORGE N. COHEN.

The writer of these articles had charge  
of the literature department of the So-  
cialist Party of Philadelphia for about  
eleven years, during which time about  
\$25,000 worth of literature was sold,  
practically all of it for the purpose of  
getting a small number of socialist pam-  
phlets into a Socialist Book Store located  
in the city. It is probably the only one of  
its kind in America. It has been con-  
trolled by the Socialist Party of  
Philadelphia.

I helped to originate and carry  
out the plans proposed here and was  
Business and Advertising Manager of a  
newspaper such as described.  
He has made an attempt here to cover  
the whole subject of conducting the  
literature department of the party.  
Whether the important points have been  
covered, or not, or not, it is not my  
business to say. I am only pointing out  
in order that the party may  
agree upon a working plan that can be  
used to advantage to some extent every-  
where.

The methods discussed here have  
been tried and proved successful, if not  
completely then to a sufficient degree to  
warrant their being suggested as good  
methods for increasing the distribution  
of literature.

### Running A Literature Department.

Should there be no literature de-  
partment, the start can be made by  
investing a few dollars in the kind of  
pamphlets most likely to be in de-  
mand. These should always be sold  
at a regular retail price, unless pur-  
chasing in quantities will permit  
their being sold for less while at the  
same time leaving a reasonable mar-  
gin or profit. A literature business  
cannot grow on a "sale at cost" basis.

In fact the money tied up in literature  
that sells slowly or not at all, will  
soon bankrupt the department.  
The literature money should always  
be kept in a separate fund, the return  
of investment being used to replenish  
stock while the profits go to buy new  
literature. The only time when the litera-  
ture department does not require  
it. If the money can be spared from  
the general fund then it would help  
the literature department to be per-  
mitted to keep it in reserve for emer-  
gencies.

If the department is started on this  
basis it can be kept up, but when the  
money has been diverted to other pur-  
poses the department is crippled. And  
more than one literature department  
has been wrecked by using the funds  
for other purposes so that when it  
was needed to buy literature, it was  
not available.

### Learn By Experience.

The literature agent will learn by  
experience the right kind of literature  
to buy and also the proper quantity,  
so that losses due to buying wrong  
kinds or quantities should be insignifi-  
cant. It is well to begin con-  
servatively.

After experience in handling pam-  
phlets, books and magazines can  
easily be added as well as the taking  
of subscriptions to socialist papers.  
And in fact all magazines, socialist  
and otherwise.

Every magazine gives a discount to  
the agent, so every effort should be  
made to get the comrades and sym-  
pathizers to subscribe thru the party  
literature department.

The book business gradually be-  
came enlarged so as to supply the members  
and sympathizers with the kind of  
books they are especially anxious to  
read and are difficult to obtain thru  
the usual channels.

There is no limit to the size this  
business can grow, if properly handled  
and supported. It should become a  
tremendous factor for education and  
incidentally a source of revenue for  
the organization.

Should the literature department  
become large enough it might be taken  
out of the headquarters and moved  
into a store, or both headquarters and  
literature department moved into a  
room that contains a store front.  
Preferably in the heart of the city.

### Make Store Attractive.

This store should be made as at-  
tractive as possible and the window  
displays changed frequently, thereby  
drawing new people all the time.  
This can hardly happen unless the  
organization is quite strong and has  
reached the stage where a paid office  
is a necessity. The paid office will  
find that he can attend to the extra  
book business without taking much  
time from his other duties.

If only socialist literature has been  
handled the business can be enlarged  
to include other books that are also  
necessary to socialists and sym-  
pathizers in the way of Economics,  
Philosophy, Sociology, Natural and  
Social Science, History, etc. And also  
radical and other good literature and  
magazines.

A record should be kept of all  
people who are students and interest-  
ed in the new publications. A list of  
these books sent them from time to  
time should bring results, thereby  
building up a list of permanent book  
buyers.

If the store is made attractive and  
run properly it will draw to it a class  
of people who are very anxious to reach  
the books they wish to read, and  
who have something to bring to  
the movement.

Because the editor of a Socialist  
paper in Finland printed a picture of  
the Socialist members of the Russian  
Parliament, we were asked to send  
Siberia he was sentenced to one year  
in prison for "arraying class against  
class." The picture showed the So-  
cialist Deputies in convict dress on  
the way to their place of banishment.

## Letters from "American Socialist" Readers

**TO ABOLISH THE TRANSLATOR  
SECRETARIES.**—In the minutes of  
the National Executive Committee  
meeting, March 11—13, 1916, I read,  
that a communication has been re-  
ceived from the translator secretary  
(?) of the Lettish Federation, asking  
for office room and paid translator  
secretary.... Request granted....

By reading the Party's financial re-  
port for the month of February it can  
be noticed, that the already existing  
eleven translator secretaries cost the  
organization, for that single month  
for wages alone \$325, besides rent  
for office-room, light, and other ex-  
penses. Adding one more (the Lettish,  
with \$19 weekly wages) would mean  
to increase the monthly expense to  
\$301. It is very probable that in this  
way the organization spends more  
than it receives back from the due  
stamps they buy.

The question now arises: whether  
this expenditure is any benefit to the  
Federation or the Organization as a  
whole? And if so, in what way?

According to my personal ob-  
servance in the Lettish National Or-  
ganization, whose member I have  
been since it was organized, should  
say, that I cannot find the least  
reason why such a paid translator  
secretary should be created for the Let-  
tish Organization. To my opinion  
such office will not, and cannot help  
the least to further the work of edu-  
cation and organization between the  
Lettish people in America, or uphold  
any closer relations with the organiza-  
tion. Just to the contrary. It rather  
tends to alienate the Language Fed-  
eration from the Organization, culti-  
vate nationalism instead of inter-  
nationalism, and extend certain  
boundary lines between the different  
language groups. On the other hand,  
the Organization will suffer locally.  
The material income of the Organi-  
zation in the different localities would  
be lessened, and consequently, the work  
of organization and propaganda may  
suffer.

In my opinion, the Lettish Fed-  
eration could carry out the work of  
education and propaganda between  
their people in this country in  
much more intensive and effective  
way, if the Organization would allow  
to the Federation a certain sum yearly  
for organizers' wages. This would  
enable the Federation to keep some  
of the organizers at work. Of  
course, this should be done with the  
consent of the National Executive  
Committee. This work, in my opin-  
ion, could accomplish much more and  
better results, and for less expense  
to the National Organization. One  
paid translator secretary could do,  
sitting in the office in Chicago and  
selling due stamps. Due stamps can  
be sold just as well by the present  
State and Local secretaries without  
any extra expense to the Organi-  
zation.

In summing up, it looks this way,  
that the present translator offices are  
maintained more by tradition and  
habit, than necessity.

In conclusion I would like to say,  
that the purpose of this letter is to  
indicate any ill feeling within the  
party, but to invite some sincere dis-  
cussion about this matter between the  
members of the Organization. It  
seems to me, that the time has come,  
when the translator offices could be  
not only limited, but fully eliminated  
for the benefit of the Organization.  
—A member of the Lettish Federa-  
tion, Boston, Mass.

**REFERENDUMS.**—Recently there  
was a very interesting letter in the  
Open Forum, by Comrade James Des-  
mond, of Manhattan, Nevada, in re-  
gard to referendums.

Of course the number of members  
required to initiate an amendment to  
the constitution should be the same  
as the number required to initiate  
any other referendum. To make it  
higher is to make the constitution a  
fetish, and that is one of the things  
we want to get away from.

But the membership has put itself  
on trial in this regard, and it remains  
to be seen whether the number re-  
quired to initiate amendments should  
be lowered or the number required  
to initiate other referendums should  
be higher.

Owing to the disgust caused by the  
constant abuse of the referendum, the  
percentages required were greatly in-  
creased in 1912. Many of us op-  
posed the increase, but we were unable to  
stem the tide. We kept at it, how-  
ever, and, in 1915, the percentages  
were greatly lowered.

It is again being abused, by the at-  
tempt to initiate needless referen-  
dums. If this continues, the next  
National Committee meeting will see  
another determined effort to initiate  
a referendum raising the percentages.

Certainly the duplicate referen-  
dums should be weeded out, and Com-  
rade Desmond's suggestion that the  
National Office refer them back to  
their sponsors, together with copies  
of the proposals of the number they  
duplicate, is a good one.

When I was Executive Secretary,  
I frequently wrote back to initiating  
locals when there was some informa-  
tion which they did not have pertain-  
ing to the matter, and which might  
have affected their action. In such  
cases I explained the matter and  
said to the local that, unless it notifi-  
ed me to the contrary, I would take  
it for granted that it did not want  
me to publish the proposal for  
seconds. The locals usually took the  
suggestions in the spirit in which  
they were given. Now and then, how-  
ever, a local would write me a fiery  
letter, accusing me of trying to act  
the part of a czar, etc., etc., and I  
realize that I have made a bunch of  
enemies. But it is inevitable that an  
Executive Secretary will make some  
enemies, if he does his duty. He  
could, however, be backed up in this  
matter by the Executive Committee,  
instead of being required to make all  
the enemies himself. I have intended,  
if elected to the Executive Commit-  
tee, to bring this matter before the  
committee, in the hope that it will  
direct the Executive Secretary to  
write back to initiating locals, not  
only when they initiate duplicate pro-  
posals, but also when there is any

thou fanaticism of their narrow mind  
which claim a monopoly on under-  
standing Socialist principles and  
seeks to limit all others to their  
capacity or have been corrupted  
by agencies outside the party which  
seek to embarrass it in the present  
campaign by creating dissensions in  
its ranks?

The referendums proposed by locals  
Rosedale, Wash. and Marion Co., Ind.  
in the issue of May 20 lead one to  
think that there are those more in-  
terested in creating strife among the  
Socialists at critical moments than  
unitedly working for the success of  
the Socialist party and Socialist prin-  
ciples. The main issue of this cam-  
paign, so far as we are concerned  
should be Socialism and those who  
seek to side track it, by starting  
divisions among Socialists over ques-  
tions of policy on side issues as pre-  
paredness, should cease their dis-  
ruptive tactics and settle down for  
a united effort to carry America for  
Socialism.

"Divided we fall, united we stand".  
—JAMES R. MEITZLER, Attica, Ind.

With thirty-two delegates present  
at its special convention, the Socialist  
Party of the District of Columbia  
went on record as opposed to Com-  
pulsory Military Enrollment. The  
Convention voted to sustain, both  
morally and financially, in the Courts  
the necessary, those comrades in the  
District, subject to the Draft, who  
refuse to give their names and ages,  
and other necessary requirements to  
the enrolling officer. In other words  
those who refuse to serve in the  
militia. The Socialists of Wash-  
ington, D. C. are hoping to make a  
test case of the validity of the Militia  
Law of 1899, on the grounds of its  
being unconstitutional, according to  
the 13th Amendment of the Constitu-  
tion of the United States.

Massachusetts Federation of Labor  
is to take a referendum vote of affil-  
iation to learn how they feel  
about starting a Labor party in that  
State. The conservatives oppose the  
idea, preferring to continue the old  
policy of petitioning for legislation.

The Russian government arranged  
plans to send members of Parliament  
to London, Paris and Rome for the  
purpose of studying the war situation  
and legislative programs. The Social-  
ist and Labor groups were invited to  
send representatives with the expedi-  
tion, but they declined to do so.

Ida Crouch Hazlett, a Socialist  
speaker, was arrested in Charleston,  
West Va., while holding a street  
meeting. She was addressing a  
large crowd and the police asked her  
to move back from the main street,  
which she did. The police then  
telephoned the station and asked her  
forcibly from the stand and amid the  
protests of the crowd, put her in the  
patrol wagon and took her to the sta-  
tion. The chief himself had given per-  
mission to use this corner. The case  
will be tested in the courts.

The workers cannot fight them-  
selves and their enemies at the same  
time—not even by working overtime.  
—J. ARTHUR REID.

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